

Docket No. 2001-088-NSC

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

**UPGRADEABLE TIMESTAMP MECHANISM**

5           A method, computer program product, and data  
processing system for generating and validating an  
upgradeable digital timestamp of a document is disclosed.  
The digital timestamp includes a hash value, a current  
time, and a digital signature. Over time, as computer  
10 and cryptanalytic technology progresses, upgrade  
timestamps are applied to the document that take  
advantage of more advanced, more difficult to break hash  
functions or digital signature schemes. These upgrade  
timestamps are applied preventatively at a point in time  
15 just prior to the timestamp's being able to be  
compromised.

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